

Transformative Times

*Preparing Vermont Learners
for Success*

Vermont State Board of Education
FY 2010 Budget Recommendations
and Annual Report

February 2009

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Message from the State Board Chair and Commissioner

We are submitting this FY 2010 budget in a time of extreme financial duress at the local, state, national and international level. State budgets are being significantly reduced, revenues are down and there is no doubt that the effects of the economic crisis on Wall Street are having a direct impact on Vermont schools, towns and households.

Knowing that all of state government is being asked to make extraordinarily hard choices, and realizing that school districts are being put in extremely difficult positions, the State Board of Education supports the Governor's recommendation to level fund per pupil spending and categorical grants to schools for FY 2010, with the understanding that applicable statutory changes will be required. The Board acknowledges the impact that this decision will have on local boards and districts, understanding that districts have statutory requirements, such as tuition payments and technical education costs, which will limit reductions only to areas over which they have control.

Perhaps now more than ever, local boards and state education leaders must focus on the critical components of the Vermont education system, in both delivery and results, in order to ensure that each Vermont student is given access to the education they are entitled to as efficiently and effectively as possible. With that in mind, the State Board and department see the direct correlation between challenging economic times and a transformation in the way education is delivered in Vermont. As you will see in this report, steady progress has been made in the Transformation of Education effort. This effort is designed to provide a 21st century education for all Vermont students, using contemporary technologies in concert with the personalized, challenging standards that make Vermont's education system successful. This effort is not simply an addition to the current system, rather, it asks the system to deliver a different education to students in a different way.

When accomplished, Vermont students will be practiced in contemporary technologies that prepare them for higher education and the 21st century workplace. All Vermont students will move toward reaching their fullest potential. Upon graduation, they will be practiced in being citizens in a democratic nation facing urgent social and ecological problems. This vision is shared by education and social service leaders across the state. While this integration is underway, we are challenged to build on all that we have done and rise to bring our entire educational system dynamically into the 21st century.

In this document we focus on a breakdown of the budgetary needs for the Department of Education. In an effort to provide the most accurate picture of the purpose and responsibilities of the work done in the department, we have added a new feature to our work descriptions. Readers will now be able to see Full Time Equivalents (FTE) of staff, along with their funding source and statutory requirements, in the descriptions of the current work being done at the department. The goal is to demonstrate precisely the work of each staff member of the department, how that work is funded and what legal requirement that work fulfills.

Thank you for considering our request.



Tom James, Chair
State Board of Education



Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
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